

3. **The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Correction of the following is required: "a retrofit apparatus" is not provided in the specification.** Line 1 of the applicant's description states that the invention is a "retrofit connector". This refers to the unitary typhoon clip 1, shown on applicant's Figures 1-4, and referred to in claims 1-10 as a "retrofit connector". The cyclone clip 16, shown on Figures 5-6, and referred to in claims 11-14, is a retrofit apparatus because it includes the roof plate 39, shown on Figure 5, to tie into the roof. It is still "retrofit", as it can be attached to existing houses, page 22, line 4 of specification. The term "apparatus" was used to distinguish it from the unitary typhoon clip 1.
4. **Claim 14 is objected to because this claim has a run-on sentence.** The applicant has corrected claim 14 in the amended claims.
5. **Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification.** Line 9 of claim 1 is providing that the offset web has acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web. Applicant's previous paragraph 2 shows that the bends are acute. Referring to the examiner's described angles on applicant's Figure 2, the applicant's second horizontal bend 12 is bent to the right from the vertical base web 14. Therefore, the angle would be examiner's angle β minus 90° . The left blocking web 3 is bent to the left from the offset web 13 by the first horizontal bend 9. The angle would be angle π minus 90° . Both angles are acute angles. Any obtuse angle bending would place a web member folded back on itself. The left blocking web 3 is at an acute angle from the base web 14 after two opposite and unequal acute bends.
6. **Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite** for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 1, the limitation "retrofit connector" in line 1 is unclear. Is the connector retrofitted, i.e., furnished with new or modified parts? Furthermore, the limitation "said base web" in line 7 lacks antecedent basis. The "retrofit connector" in the building trade is a connector that can be

applied to an existing house. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend lines 1 and 2 on claim 1. Please change "A unitary, retrofit connector that helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage to a building by positively" to "A unitary connector that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage by positively".

Claim 1c. refers to "said base web". This is correct. The problem is with claim 1a. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 1a. Please change "a base member" to "a base web". Now "said base web" is correct.

7. **Regarding claim 2, the limitation "as a means" in line 3 is unclear. Is the applicant invoking 112(6) paragraph?** As the applicant interprets the 112(6) paragraph, the applicant is claiming a means and a function. The applicant is claiming the flat base web, rectangular shape, and nail holes (means) for retrofitting to an exterior wall and underlying structural members (function). The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 2, line 4. Please change "to said exterior wall" to an exterior wall".
8. **Regarding claims 3 and 4, It is unclear whether the first and the second generally horizontal bends are the acute angled bends or other angled bends. Furthermore, the limitation "having attachment", in lines 1 and 2 in each claim, is unclear.** The first and second horizontal bends are the same acute bends. These acute angles are explained in applicant's paragraphs 2 and 5. "Having attachment" is unclear. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claims 3 and 4. Please change "having attachment" to "connected".
9. **Regarding claim 5, the limitation "said first and second acute angled bends" lacks antecedent basis. Furthermore, the limitation "and blocking that sticks out" in line 5 is unclear. The limitation "as an offsetting means" is unclear Is the applicant invoking 112(6) paragraph?** The first and second acute angled bends were defined in claims 3 and 4. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 5. On line 1 please change "claim 1" to "claim 4". Also on line 1, please delete "acute". On line

3, please change "unequal bends" to "unequal acute bends". On line 4, please change "means of placing said top" to "means, thereby offsetting said top". On line 5, please delete "that stick out from said wall". Regarding 112(6), the offset member and unequal acute bends provide an offsetting means (means) that offsets the top web away from frieze boards and blocking (function).

10. **Regarding claim 7, the limitation "said second acute angle bend" in line 3 lacks antecedent basis.** The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 7. On lines 2 and 3, please delete "generally near said second acute angle bend,".
11. **Regarding claim 8, the limitation "forming rafter tabs" in line 2 is unclear whether the right angle bends form both the rafter webs as recited in line 6 of claim 1 and the rafter tabs at the same time. It appears that the rafter tabs should be rafter webs instead.** Agreed. Claim 1b should have rafter tabs instead of rafter webs. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claims 1b and 8. On line 2 of claim 1b, please change "rafter webs" to "rafter tabs". On claim 8, line 1, please change "claim 1" to "claim 7". Also on claim 8, line 2, please change "forming rafter tabs that are" to "form rafter tabs off said blocking webs that are".
12. **Regarding claim 9, the limitation "said blocking webs" in line 1 lacks antecedent basis.** Agreed. Claim 7 recites the blocking webs. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 9. On line 1 please change "claim 8" to "claim 7".
13. **Regarding claim 10, the limitations "said base plate" in line 1, "said rafter tabs" in line 2, said blocking webs" in line 2, "said exterior wall" in line 4, "said underlying structural member" in line 5, "said roof rafter" in line 5, and "said frieze boards" in line 6 lack antecedent basis. Furthermore, the limitation "to an existing house" is unclear whether the attaching means is in an existing house. The limitation "as a means" in line 3 is unclear whether applicant is invoking 112(6th) paragraph.** The applicant has amended claim 1a in paragraph 6, changing "base member" to "base web". In paragraph 11, the applicant amended claim 1b, changing "rafter webs" to "rafter tabs".

The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 10. On line 1, please change "base plate" to "base web". On line 2, please change "blocking webs" to "top web". Base web, rafter tabs, and top web have antecedent basis to claim 1. On lines 4 and 5, please change "said exterior wall, said underlying" to "an exterior wall and underlying". Also on line 5, please change "said roof rafter, and said frieze" to "to a roof rafter, and frieze". The applicant amended claim 1 preamble to include "existing houses" in paragraph 6. The applicant refers to the nail holes in the base web, rafter tabs, and top web (means) secure together the exterior wall, underlying structural member, roof rafter, and frieze boards preventing wind and seismic damage (function).

14. **Regarding claim 11, the limitation "retrofit apparatus" is unclear. Furthermore, the limitations "said base web" in line 7, and "said rafter tabs" in line 10 lack antecedent basis. Furthermore, the limitation "said sheathing tab" in line 17 and said strengthening tab" in line 17 lack antecedent basis. Similar to amended claim 1, the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 11. On line 1, please change "A retrofit apparatus that helps prevent" to "An apparatus that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent". On line 2, please delete "to a building". On claim 11a, please change "base member" to "base web". On claim 11b, please change "rafter webs" to "rafter tabs". The "sheathing tab" was stated in claim 11g. The strengthening tab" was stated in claim 11e.**
15. **Regarding claim 13, the limitation "bolt holes" in line 2 is unclear whether the holes are different or the same as the bolt holes recited in line 21 of claim 11. Furthermore, the limitation, ", and having bolt hole" is unclear what feature of the invention has these bolt holes. Furthermore, the limitation "said holes" in line 5 is unclear whether these holes are the holes recited in lines 2 or 4 of claim 13, or line 21 of claim 11. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 13. On line 1, please change "having a" to "having said". On lines 3-5, please change "roof rafter for straddling a roof rafter underlying said roof, and having bolt holes for placing said bolts into said holes on either" to "roof rafter, providing a straddling means whereby a roof rafter underlying said roof, having bolt placement on either".**

16. **Regarding claim 14, the limitation "said apparatus below said roof" is unclear since claim 14 or claim 11 has not positively recited that the apparatus is below the roof.** The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner amend claim 14. Please substitute the following: The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said apparatus having attaching means to the top of a roof by said roof plate, and said rafter tabs, said top web, said base web, and said sheathing tabs having attachment to a rafter, frieze board, top plate, exterior wall, and said roof plate respectively, thereby forming a strong connection between the top of a roof and the wall of a house, preventing wind and seismic damage."

17. **Regarding claim 6. The claim depends from claim 5 and therefore is indefinite.** Claim 5 has been amended in paragraph 9 to depend on amended claim 4.

18. **Regarding claims 12 and 14, the claims depend from claim 11 and therefore are indefinite.** Claims 11 and 14 have been amended to clear the 112 objection.

19. **Claims 1, and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thompson 6,094,880. Regarding claim 1, Thompson discloses in Figure 10 a unitary connector comprising a base web 34A, an offset, angled top web 34. The top web 34 has generally right angle bends A3 forming rafter webs. The base web 34A and the top web 34 are connected by an offset member. The offset web 20A has angled bends A5 attached to the base web 34A and the top web 34. The cited reference was derived from the present inventor. Thompson's 880 is a great invention, but the applicant's amended claim 1d states that the offset web has acute angled bends. Also, amended claim 1b states a singular top web. Thompson's offset webs 34 have right angle bends at the top and at the bottom and sides, not acute angled bends. Also, Thompson's connector has two base webs 34 and 34A, not a singular base web. Also, Thompson's right angle bends off the offset web 20A form a base web 34A and top web 34. The applicant's right angle bends off the offset top web form rafter tabs.**

20. **Regarding claim 2, the base web 34A has a generally flat, generally long-horizontal rectangular shape, and nail holes. A6. Thompson's 880 has the base web 34A in a**

generally offset S-shape, not a rectangular shape. The S-shape is slightly similar to the applicant's profile of the acute angles shown on applicant's Figure 2.

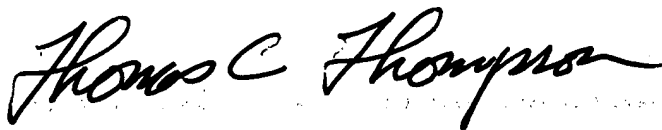
21. **Regarding claim 3, the offset web 20A is attached to the base web 34A.** Thompson shows his offset web 20A attached to the base web 34A by a right angle bend. The applicant's amended claim 3 states that the bend is at an acute angle.
22. **Regarding claim 4, the offset web 20A is attached to the top web 34.** The applicant's amended claim 4 states that the offset web and top web are connected by an acute angle, not a right angle bend like Thompson's 880.
23. **Regarding claims 5-7, these claims are impossible to examine due to ambiguities in the claim. Applicant is reminded that a recitation with respect to the manner in which an apparatus is intended to be employed does not impose any structural limitation upon the claimed apparatus, which differentiates it from a prior art reference disclosing the structural limitations of the claim.** The applicant's amended claims 5-7 now show structural limitations. On claim 5, please amend lines 4-5. Please change "away from frieze boards" to "away from said base web, and thereby avoiding frieze boards". Now claim 5 states a structural limit, offsetting the top web away from the base web. On claim 6, the structural limit from claim 5, the offset, is reinforced stating that the offset forms the top web and base web unparallel and forming a buttress. On claim 7, the top webs formed by the right angled bends is a definite structural limitation.
24. **The enclosed amended claims read over the cited reference.** A clean copy of the amended claims are also enclosed for the examiner's convenience. Accordingly, the applicant submits that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action applicant respectfully solicits. If the examiner agrees but does not feel that the present claims are technically adequate, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner write acceptable claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j).

25. **Certificate of Mailing:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231" on (date) Feb 5 2003

Typed name of person signing this certificate: Thomas C. Thompson

(Signature)



Very Respectively,

Thomas C. Thompson
92-543 Kokole Pl.
Makakilo, HI
(808) 672-3107

Claims (clean copy)

I claim:

- Sub 01> 1. A unitary connector that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage by positively connecting a roof to a wall, comprising:
- a base web;
 - an offset, angled, top web having generally right angled bends forming rafter tabs;
 - said base web and said top web connected by an offset web;
 - said offset web having acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web.
2. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base web having a generally flat, generally long-horizontal rectangular shape, with a plurality of nail holes as a means for retrofitting to an exterior wall, and into an underlying structural member.
3. The connector of claim 1 wherein said offset web connected to said base web by a first generally horizontal bend at an acute angle.
4. The connector of claim 3 wherein said offset web connected to said top web by a second generally horizontal bend at an acute angle.
5. The connector of claim 4 wherein said first and second angled bends, attached to opposite ends of said offset web, having generally unequal, acute bends in opposite directions as an offsetting means, thereby offsetting said top web away from said base web, and thereby avoiding frieze boards and blocking on a house.

6. The connector of claim 5 wherein said unequal bends and offset web forming said base web and said top web unparallel to each other as a means of forming a buttress between a rafter of said roof, said wall, and underlying structural members, thereby preventing said exterior wall from detaching from said roof rafter.
7. The connector of claim 1 wherein said top web having generally vertical right angle bends dividing said top web into left and right blocking webs.
8. The connector of claim 7 wherein said right angle bends form rafter tabs off said blocking webs that are generally vertical, parallel, and having a plurality of nail holes for attaching to the sides of said roof rafter.
9. The connector of claim 7 wherein said blocking webs having an offset and acute angle, thereby placing said blocking webs generally parallel to frieze boards and blocking on said house and said blocking webs having a plurality of nail holes as an attaching means onto said frieze boards and blocking.
10. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base web, said rafter tabs, and said top web having attaching means to an existing house by a plurality of nail holes, as a means for securing together an exterior wall and underlying structural member, to a roof rafter, and frieze boards and blocking, thereby preventing wind and seismic damage from a hurricane and earthquake.
11. An apparatus that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage by positively connecting the top of a roof to a wall, comprising:

- a. a base web;
- b. an offset, angled top web having right angled bends, called rafter upright bends, forming rafter tabs;
- c. said base web and said top web connected by an offset web;
- d. said offset web having acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web;
- e. said rafter tabs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming strengthening tabs;
- f. said rafter tabs dividing said top web into blocking webs;
- g. said blocking webs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming sheathing tabs;
- h. said sheathing tab folded on top of said strengthening tab;
- i. said sheathing tabs and said strengthening tabs having a bolt hole;
- j. a generally rectangular roof plate having a plurality of bolt holes;
- k. nuts and bolts.

c,
(cont.)

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having a predetermined area and a generally flat shape for conforming to an outside surface of [said] a roof.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having said plurality of bolt holes spaced greater than a width of a roof rafter, providing a straddling means, whereby a roof rafter underlying said roof, having bolt placement on either side of said rafter.

14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said apparatus having attaching means to the top of a roof by said roof plate, and said rafter tabs, said top web, said base web, and said sheathing tabs having attachment to a rafter, frieze board,

top plate, exterior wall, and said roof plate respectively,
thereby forming a strong connection between the top of a
roof and the wall of a house, preventing wind and seismic
damage.

21
(continued)